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Letters to the Editor

Some Facts, Figures on NSA

Your Aug. 15 editorial and accompanying cartoon on the National Student Assn. were nice, warm and encouraging but also silly and out of touch with reality.

Merely cutting off the flow of funds from the CIA has not resulted in a "new bounce" nor a "free, unbind-
ered and independent flow of ideas," nor has NSA become "more student-centered now, which is the way a student organization ought to be," nor is NSA now spending only 10 per cent of its budget on foreign programs.

Only \$18,000 of NSA's over \$800,000 budget comes from member student governments on the campus. The balance comes from government agencies, such as the State Department, the U.S. Office of Education and the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

NSA can continue receiving these federal grants only so long as it remains an Internal Revenue Service-approved, tax-exempt organization. Thus, although national opinion polls show 67 per cent of registered voters are in favor of the 18-year-old vote, NSA is prohibited by tax laws from lobbying on behalf of students in this area.

NSA is similarly impotent in other areas of legitimate student interest, and the mere threat of revoking NSA's tax exemption can be used to keep NSA impotent.

Major structural changes and constitutional amendments are necessary to bring NSA into alignment with the campus constituency it claims to represent. Hopefully, the delegates at the NSA congress currently meeting in Maryland will begin this task.

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